

Belongs to the Mo. Meeting
No. 46 A N *of Reading*
E P I S T L E

O F

Tender COUNSEL

T O

PARENTS, SCHOOL-MASTERS, and
SCHOOL-MISTRESSES ; and likewise
to the YOUTH.

By BENJAMIN HOLME. *K*

*In all thy Ways acknowledge him (i. e. the Lord)
and he shall direct thy Paths. Prov. iii 6.*

*Whether therefore you Eat or Drink, or whatsoever ye
do, do all to the Glory of God. 1 Cor. 10. 31.*

L O N D O N :

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MDCCXLIX.



A N
E P I S T L E
O F
Tender COUNSEL, &c.

DEAR FRIENDS,

WHOM the Lord, in the Riches
of his Love and Mercy, has
graciously visited and done
great Things for, I hereby tenderly salute
you, with Desires that you may daily live
in a holy Sense of the deep and manifold
Obligations that you are under, to walk
humbly and reverently before him while
you have a Being here ; and as it is so,
you will have great inward Longings in
your Hearts and Minds, that the same
divine Hand of Love and Mercy which
has reach'd to you, and led you out of
the Vanities and Evils which are in the
World, may reach to your Children ;
that

that so they may be a Seed to serve the Lord in their Generation : And endeavour as much as in you lies, to train them up in the Way of Truth while they are young ; the *Wise Man* saith, *Train up a Child in the Way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Although there are but few general Rules but what will admit of some Exceptions ; yet without Dispute, a virtuous and good Education has very often had good Effects, so that many have great Cause to be thankful to the Lord, for the Care and good Endeavours of their religious Parents, that they did not indulge them in those Things which tend to gratify a proud and vain Mind : And shew them by your Example, how good *Christians* ought to live. And I very much desire, that you may discourage those Things in your Children, which you have been reprov'd for by the Spirit of Truth in yourselves, both in *Conversation, Habit and Speech*, that you may be a Blessing to them.

And now, *my Friends*, give me leave to intreat you who are *School-Masters* and *School-Mistresses*, and have the Education and Tuition of Youth committed to your Care, humbly to seek, that you may be helped to set them good Examples : The

Apostle

Apostle exhorted his beloved *Timothy*, to be an *Example of the Believers in Word, in Conversation, in Charity, in Spirit, in Faith, in Purity*; and if your Conversations are such as become the Followers of *Christ*, you may be great Instruments of Good to the Children under your Care: And let them see you have got Command of your Tongues and Tempers, and of your own Spirits, that when you see Occasion to reprove or correct any of them, it may be done in Wisdom, and with that Command of Temper, that you may answer the divine Principle in their Minds: We are told by the *Wise Man*, that *Wisdom is better than Strength or Weapons of War*. And we read, that *He that ruleth his own Spirit*, is said to be *better than he who takes a City*. Eccl. ix. 16, 18.
Prov. xvi. 32.

Many of our prudent and good Friends, by their wise Conduct, have kept a fine Authority over their Children, and those that were under their Care, and yet they have very much kept their Love and Affection; which is very excellent: But if People rule in a sour Temper and Spirit, over their Children and Servants, and them that are under their Care, they may very much loose their Love and Affection; and if they do so, then no wonder if they slight and disregard them: It was pleasing to the Lord, that *Solomon sought Wisdom*,

Wisdom, that he might know how to go in and out before his People ; and there is no doubt but you will be regarded, as you humbly wait for the *Wisdom* which comes from above, that you may know what to cherish, and what to suppress ; and endeavour as much as in you lies, to instil virtuous and good Principles into their Minds ; and beget an Abhorrence in them against *Vice* and *Immorality*. And as many good natur'd young People have very much shorten'd their Days by *Intemperance* and *drinking to Excess* ; and several have also very much wasted their Substance by *Gaming* ; I very much desire, that you may endeavour to principle your Children, while they are young, against these Things, and endeavour to persuade them to mind that divine Principle of *Light* and *Grace* in themselves, which shews them the Evil and the Temptations of Satan, when they are presented ; that thereby they may be enabled to withstand them. You have great Opportunities to influence their Minds, and to make good Impressions upon them : It is much to be desired, that you may have their Good truly at Heart ; and if you keep to the seasoning Grace of God in yourselves, you may be greatly instrumental to season their Minds in their tender Years. And as you fervently seek their

Good,

Good, it may be, that you may have a Word of Counsel to drop now and then, which may prove like a Nail fastened in a sure Place. We read, that *Words fitly spoken*, or spoken in Season, are said to be *like Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver*: And as you are found in the Discharge of your Duty to them, in all Respects, you will enjoy great Peace in your own Minds: I believe, some School-Masters and School-Mistresses have very much recommended themselves, and increas'd their Schools, by their Care and Diligence, and in doing to other Peoples Children as they would have had their own Children done to, if they were under the same Circumstances.

And, dear Children, and young People, who are growing up, I tenderly desire that you may take that wise and excellent Counsel of our Saviour, where he exhorts, *first to seek the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness, and all these Things shall be added unto you*; then the Lord's Care will be over you, and the Hand which is full of Blessings will be opened to you: If you remember, our Saviour saith, that *The Kingdom of God cometh not with Observation, neither shall they say, lo here, or lo there, but behold the Kingdom of God is within you*. May you fervently seek to know the

Mat.
viii. 33.

Luke
xvii. 20.
21.

the Lord to bear Rule and govern in your Hearts, whose Right it is to rule there. You find in that very excellent Prayer which our Saviour taught his Disciples, they were directed to pray for the *Kingdom of God to come*, and that *his Will might be done in Earth as it is done in Heaven* : But till Men come to witness the Lord to be King in them, and have the Dominion in their Hearts, they can never live according to his Will. And as they were taught in that excellent Prayer, to pray that *their Trespases might be forgiven them, as they forgave those that trespassed against them* ; I desire that you may learn, while you are young, to forgive Injuries, and forget them too : Be sure that you bear no Prejudice in your Minds one against another, but live in Love and Peace, and strive to excel in Humility and Meekness : *Learn of me*, saith our Saviour, *for I am meek and lowly in Heart*. He was not only an Example of Plainness to Mankind, but he was inwardly humble : The more meek, humble, and merciful, People are, they are the more like our great Pattern the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember the holy Apostle's Counsel, *To obey your Parents in the Lord* ; for, saith he, *this is right*. This is the Way to prosper and be blest : Many good natured Children, that were of an obliging Temper,

Mat. xi.
29.

Eph. vi.
1.

Temper, and of a condescending Spirit, have very much endear'd themselves to their Parents; but on the other hand, many that would not be ruled by their good Parents, have fallen into bad Company, and have been drawn into *Gaming* and *hard Drinking*, and so have brought swift Ruin upon themselves.

And if any of you should hereafter incline to *Marry*, I would have you to pay a very great Regard to your Parents, and Friends Counsel; and like that good Servant of *Abraham*, who, when he went to seek for a Wife for his Master's Son *Isaac*, sought that the Lord *might direct him*: Let Truth and Virtue be your chief Objects, that you may be happy in a married State. But how many that have not regarded the *Truth*, and would not be ruled by their Parents and Friends, have married very imprudently, and have laid a great Foundation for making their own Living very unhappy and uncomfortable, and have brought great Sorrow to their good Parents.

I very much desire, that as you grow in Years you may grow in Grace; that so, like good *Samuel*, you may grow in *Favour with the Lord and good Men*: Good and virtuous Living will not only very much recommend you to the better Part of Mankind,

kind, but it is the *Way to obtain the Blessing which maketh truly rich, and adds no Sorrow with it.* And live in Love and Peace, and speak lovingly and meekly to one another. And if you behave well, you will be a Credit to your Master, and to your Friends: And make good Use of your Time, and strive to excel in Learning, and in the best Things. If you should live in the Fear of God, and take good Ways (if it should please the Lord to spare you) you may be very serviceable in your Generation: The holy Man of God (viz. *John*) wrote to *Gaius*, saying, *I have no greater Joy than to hear that my Children walk in Truth.* And to be sure it would be a great Comfort to many of your Parents, and good Friends, to have you take good Ways: And if any of you should want to be put out to *Trades*, if you are honest and peaceable, and careful to speak the Truth, and to make good Improvement of your Time while you are at School, so that the Master can give a good Account of you, his good Recommendation may be a Means to help several of you to good Places.

And dear Children, Remember your Creator in the Days of your Youth, and consider the Obligations you are under to serve him, who is the Author of your Being, and the

Fountain

3 John
i. 4.

Fountain from whom all the good Things which you receive comes: And as the *Wise Man* saith, *God hates a proud Look, and a lying Tongue, and him that sows Discord amongst Brethren*, be sure that you hate to tell an *Untruth*, and have a Care of being *proud*, because we read, that *Pride goes before Destruction, and a haughty Spirit before a Fall.* Prov. xvi. 18. And I would have you guard against a *quarrelsome Spirit and Temper*; and if at any Time, any ill natur'd People should call any of you unbecoming Names, be sure that you do not give one unbecoming or unhandsome Word for another; neither render Reviling for Reviling; but remember that the *Wise Man* saith, *That a soft Answer turns away Wrath*: Neither give *flattering Titles* to any: If you remember, *Elibu* said, that he *did not know to give flattering Titles*; in so doing his Maker would soon take him away. Job xxxii. 22. Now although I would not have you to give flattering Titles, which may tend to gratify the vain and proud Mind in any, yet I would have you learn to speak handsomely and becomingly to every Body, even to the poorest Servant or Apprentice about any of your Parents Houses, and also to the Beggar that comes for an Alms; and seek and pray, like good *Jabez*, that *the Lord may keep you from Evil*; and we read, that the 1 Chron iv. 10.
 Lord

Lord answered his Prayer : The Fear of the Lord is a great Blessing to all those who live in it, *it is a Fountain of Life, which preserves from the Snares of Death :* and if you would not be drawn into any evil and hurtful Things, I would have you to be very choice of *your Company* ; for Peoples Company has often great Influence upon them : Remember the *Wise Man's* Counfel, *My Son*, saith he, *if Sinners entice thee, consent thou not :* Many good natur'd People have been ruined to a great Degree, through hearkening to the Enticements of Sinners ; but they are wise, who learn from others Harms to beware : Love to read the *Holy Scriptures*, and other good Books ; but do not read any idle and corrupt Books, which may tend to corrupt your Minds. I very much desire you may be prevailed upon, by the Power of divine Love, to bear the Yoke and Cross of Christ in your Youth, that in the End you may witness *that Peace which the World can neither give nor take away.* So with Desires that you may make a right and good Application of this *Friendly Counfel*, and that you may benefit thereby, I conclude your Friend, who wishes well to you and all Men,

24 MAR 59

London, the 18th of the
12th Month, 1748. BENJAMIN HOLME.

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